

## A Brief History of the Unitarian Parish House

The building now known as the Unitarian Parish House was formerly a large shed situated in the old shipyard, near the Bluefish River Bridge, on the southerly side of the River and used in old times to house the timber for ships which were built there. At that time the writer first remembers it, about seventy years ago, it was not in use, the yard being abandoned, although one or two ships were afterwards built there. It was entirely empty, with no floors, and the children, of which the writer was one, used to play there, walking on the sills and running on the earth below. Some years afterwards it was purchased by Pelig Brooks, at that time remaining a stagecoach with four horses, to Kingston to meet steam car trains to Boston, as there was no railroad then in Duxbury, and moved to its present situation. After the steam railroad was put through from Cohasset, the stagecoach was discontinued, and later the building was purchased by a Society of Ladies called the "Unitarian Aid Society" which was formed in 1873 for charitable purposes and incorporated in 1876 for the purpose of "maintaining a Public Hall, to be used for lectures and the establishment of a Public Library." The earlier records having been lost, the details of making the building into a Hall, are not at hand, but with the help of interested and generous friends, the difficulties were finally overcome, and the Hall was opened on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1876, with Literary Exercises and a Large Ball. It was given the name of "Duxbury Hall", and a sign with that name placed on the front. In 1877 it was voted (there being no capital stock) to form a Corporation composed of a part of its members and to give a mortgage on Hall of \$24,000, that interest to be paid by the Society, through letting the Hall, holding fairs, etc which was finally discharged on October 22d, 1890. The corporation being reduced as to its members but the Hall was not much used for a few years, and in January 1904 a meeting was held at which it was voted, to sell the building, which was accordingly done that year, and the friends of the Society, remaining after all costs were paid, and the Corporation dissolved, were handed over to the Duxbury Public Library by legal advice, and the decision of the Attorney General in May 1905.

The Hall Building was purchased (for \$2000) by the (Melissce Luray??) and Jerusha (F?) Hathaway and presented to the Unitarian Parish for a Parish House, 1904.

Members of the Corporation

## CHURCHES

### A Brief History

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 The Hall Building was purchased by the Misses Lucy &  
 Gerusha F. Hathaway, and presented to the Unitarian  
 Parish, for a Parish House, 1904. L.H.

#### Members of the Corporation.

Sarah J. Cushman  
 Lucy B. Nickerson  
 Ada J. Gifford  
 Eliza M. Mide

Lucy B. Wilde  
 1905 Lizzie N. Green  
 " Fannie Delano  
 (Mrs.) " Lucy B. Nickerson & d.

1905?

Julia S. R. Winsor

Ally M. Weston

Catherine D. Delomo alive 1905?

Deborah C. Peterson "

Margaret A. Sampson "

Georgia W. Bedwin

Marian Le. Sampson

Jerusha F. Hallaway "

Honorary Members,

Mrs Gershon Weston

Mr Stephen W. Gifford

A number of Society Members  
of which there is no list.

" Fannie E. Joyce

" Meargie S. Sampson

: Hattie Peterson (deceased)

: Mary C. Goodspeed (deceased)

1905 George A. Green

J. Laurence Wilde

? Henry Nickerson

J. D. Barnes